

with glycerol to form a conjugated fatty acid glyceride which contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride.

2. (Amended) A composition for oral administration to improve lipid metabolism, to prevent or treat obesity, or to prevent or therapeutically treat hyperlipidemia, said oral composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the conjugated fatty acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable ingredients.

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3. (Amended) A method of improving lipid metabolism, treating or preventing obesity, or for the prophylaxis and/or therapeutic treatment of hyperlipidemia in an animal in which it is desired to improve the lipid metabolism, treat or prevent obesity, or prevent and/or therapeutically treat hyperlipidemia, which comprises orally administering to the animal a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conjugated fatty acid ester comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double

bonds within the molecule, wherein the conjugated fatty acid within the molecule forms an ester bond with glycerol to form a conjugated fatty acid glyceride which contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the conjugated fatty acid is conjugated lineolic acid.

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5. (Amended) A milk-based drink for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a milk and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride mixed with said milk, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the conjugated fatty acid.

6. (Amended) A soybean milk for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a soybean milk and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride mixed with said soybean milk, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein said conjugated fatty

acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the conjugated fatty acid.

7. (Amended) A dietary or nutritional supplement in the form of a capsule for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a capsule molded with a capsule base and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride encapsulated with the capsule, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride.

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8. (Amended) A dietary or nutritional supplement in the form of a tablet for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a tablet base and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride.

[Please add the following claims:]

AV 9. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein said conjugated fatty acid is a conjugated lineolic acid.

10. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the triglyceride is in an amount of 80% or more.

11. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the triglyceride is in an amount of 85.5%.

A 12. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the triglyceride is in an amount of 83.4%.

13. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated fatty acid with conjugate double bonds is 9,11-octadecadienoic acid.

14. (New) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds is 10,12-octadecadienoic acid.

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15. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for improving lipid metabolism.

16. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for treating or preventing obesity.

17. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for preventing or treating hyperlipidemia. *AL*
